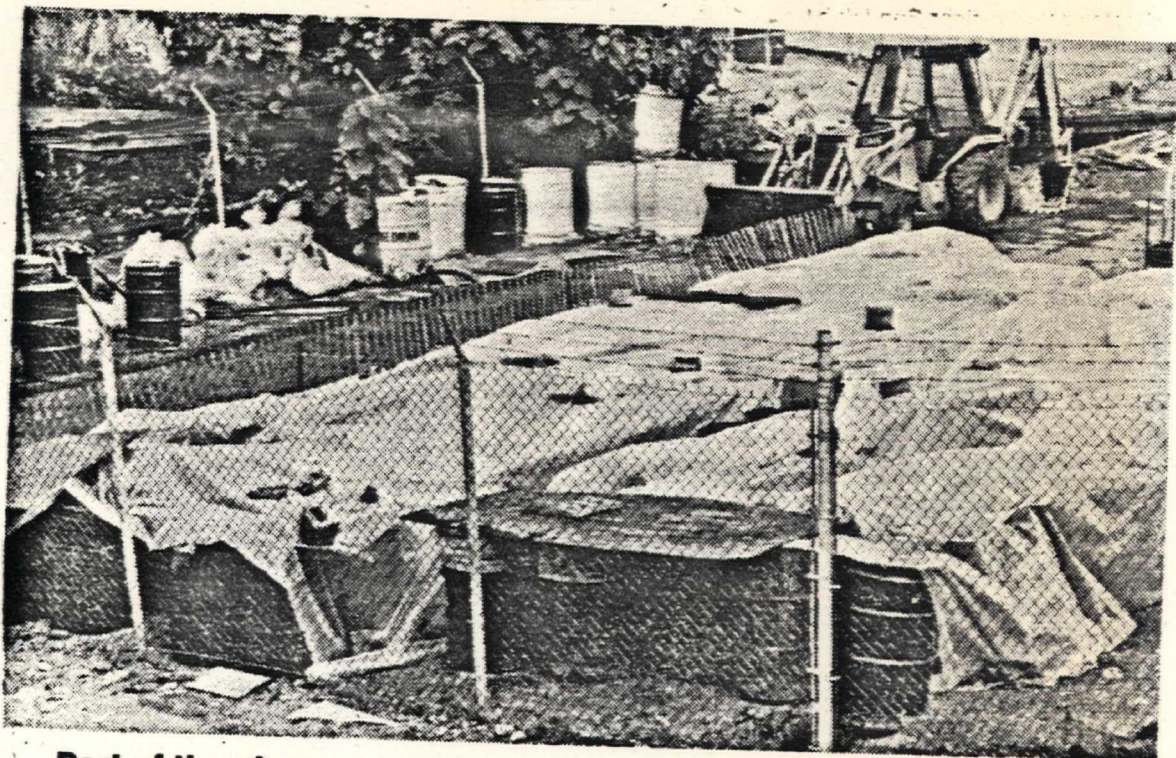




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### Part of the cleanup targets

These drums are part of the massive cleanup targets at the Duane Marine Salvage Corp. site in Perth Amboy, which was said this week to be proceeding smoothly. More than 1,000

drums have already been removed, with another 950 still scheduled for removal. The work could be completed by the end of September if all goes according to plan.

TNT photo by Keith A. Muccilli

## Cleanup going smoothly

By WAYNE F. YOURSTONE

News Tribune staff writer

**PERTH AMBOY** — The cleanup of toxic chemical-laden drums at the abandoned Duane Marine Salvage Corp. site here is moving smoothly and could be completed by as early as the end of September, according to the field supervisor of the project.

But Dale Webster added that the exact date depends on the final precise determination of the materials in all of the drums and approvals for the disposal of the chemicals at a secure landfill.

Laboratory results of analysis of the materials in the drums have started to come in from the RECRA Research Co., Buffalo, N.Y. Webster said the rest of the results should be available within the next week or so.

When all the results are in, personnel from the CECOS Environmental International organization, based in Buffalo with an area office in Edison, can move out the 950 drums which remain on site. Approximately 1,000 empty drums were

### Duane progress detailed

crushed and removed earlier this week to an upstate New York landfill, Webster said.

A tour of the site at the foot of Washington Street yesterday showed that the remaining drums have been moved into neat groupings and covered with plastic to protect the barrels from rain.

Duane Marine operated the toxic waste storage and treatment facility from 1975 to 1980. The plant was destroyed in a huge fire in July of 1980.

Since then, city officials have been attempting to have the state and federal environmental agencies clean up the site.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is monitoring the cleanup. Thirty companies that had materials manifested to the Duane Marine site are paying for the

cleanup work under a plan worked out with the EPA.

Webster said that the CECOS personnel will begin shortly to clean out the 24 tanks on the site which also contain the hazardous chemicals. Most of the tanks range in size from 250 gallon capacity to 10,000 gallon capacity, with one huge 250,000 gallon tank also on site.

That largest tank contains about 32,000 gallons of sludge and other materials, Webster said.

Soil in some of the site areas is contaminated and will have to be removed, Webster said. He added that the barrels on the rest of the site are on concrete pads.

Once the final characterization of all the materials in the barrels is known, arrangements for the safe transportation and disposal in the New York State landfill will be made, Webster said.